

Appln. No. 10/090,647  
Amdt dated March 27, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of Sep. 28, 2005

**Amendment to the Claims:**

Please replace the prior listing of claims with the new listing of claims, below:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A method for using process exceptions to provide instant notifications for distributed processes, comprising:
  - monitoring stimulus from at least one information source at a critical point in a process,
  - processing said stimulus to detect at least one process exception,
  - communicating said at least one exception to at least one messaging controller over a first communication mechanism and, if not acknowledged, communicating said at least one exception to at least one messaging controller over at least one alternative communication mechanism, wherein said information source is not connected to the first communication mechanism or the at least one alternative communication mechanism,
  - processing said at least one exception at said messaging controller to determine at least one recipient to receive a notification and any associated contextual information, and
  - communicating said notification and any associated contextual information to said at least one recipient.
2. (Currently amended) An apparatus for using process exceptions to provide instant notifications for distributed processes, comprising:
  - process exception detection means connected to a first communication mechanism and at least one alternate communication mechanism; and
  - a messaging controller connected to the first communication mechanism and the at least one alternate communication mechanism,wherein said process exception detection means comprises:

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means to monitor stimulus from an information source not connected to the first communication mechanism or the at least one alternate communication mechanism,

a rules engine to determine at least one process exception based on said stimulus, and

means to communicate said exception to said messaging controller over the first communication mechanism, and if not acknowledged, over the at least one alternate communication mechanism, and

wherein said messaging controller comprises:

interface means to receive said at least one exception,

a rules engine to determine at least one notification for at least one recipient and to determine any associated contextual information based on said at least one exception, and

interface means to communicate said at least one notification and any associated contextual information to a recipient application.